

MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
April 13, 2021
Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Jonathan Gates called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m., and in attendance were trustees Heather Calvin, Adam Delmolino, Kathy Fennelly, Amy Hampe, Stephen Quinlan, and Joyce Radochia. Also in attendance were Stu Wilson and Betsy Bartholomew of Library Strategies, Andrea Nicolay, library director, and Anna Litten, assistant library director. Mr. Gates shared open meeting law information as it pertains to remote meetings.

Library Strategies

Library Strategies staff introduced the team of consultants who will be working with us; Betsy Bartholomew, David Katz, Stu Wilson, and Toni Garvey. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Garvey will be the lead consultants on our project. Mr. Wilson discussed three phases of the strategic planning process; data gathering, soliciting input from community members and staff, and focus groups of broadly-based library constituents. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Garvey will draft a strategic plan including goals and strategies. The consultants will include recommendations for Ms. Nicolay. Mr. Wilson addressed post-COVID choices libraries will be facing. The Board discussed the impact of COVID on the future of libraries, services, and programming, community demographics, and other issues. The Board discussed methods to identify community groups underserved by the library. The strategic planning team encourages focusing on questions of equity and diversity at every stage of the process.

Community Time

There were no members of the community present.

Approval of March 9 Meeting Minutes (vote)

Mr. Delmolino moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Calvin seconded the motion. Under guidance from the Attorney General's office, the Board held a roll call vote. Ms. Fennelly voted aye, Mr. Gates voted aye, Ms. Hampe voted aye, Mr. Quinlan voted aye, Ms. Radochia voted aye. The Board approved the minutes.

Summer Russell Fund Budget (vote)

Ms. Nicolay shared that the Russell Fund programs outlined in the Russell Fund Summer 2021 Budget Request will all be virtual. An additional program added to the calendar in July raised

the budget request from FY20. Ms. Hampe moved to approve the Summer Russell Fund Budget. Mr. Delmolino seconded the motion. The Board held a roll call vote. Ms. Calvin voted aye, Ms. Fennelly voted aye, Mr. Gates voted aye, Mr. Quinlan voted aye, Ms. Radochia voted aye. The Board approved the Summer Russell Fund Budget.

Remote Participation Update

Mr. Gates shared that the Select Board formed a committee to study public remote participation at meetings of Town boards and commissions. The Select Board will hear recommendations from the study committee in October. The Board discussed remote meetings and the value of remote participation as a way to build equity.

Library Imagery Inventory

Ms. Nicolay shared an inventory of imagery in the Library. The Board discussed the goals of the library imagery inventory project. Ms. Nicolay discussed ways that imagery in the library supports a welcoming and democratic community. The Board discussed how art interacts with the spaces in the building and suggested that plans be developed over time for each type of space (Children's Room, Reading Room, etc). The Board discussed how to make sense of what work belongs in the library and why, as well as the use of art as a community draw for the library.

Director's Report

The Board discussed the Director's Report and the Arlington Reads Together Report. Ms. Nicolay shared comments from the community on Browsing Appointments.

Foundation Liaison Update

Ms. Calvin reported that the Foundation did not meet in March. The Foundation held their annual retreat.

Friends Liaison Updates

Ms. Radochia that the Friends did not hold their April meeting yet, and there is no report. There was no notice of a Friends of Fox meeting.

Communications and Announcements

Ms. Nicolay shared that the library received a second state aid payment of \$35,371.69.

Unanticipated Items

There were no unanticipated items.

Date of Next Meeting: May 11, 2021

The next meeting will be held on May 11, 2021.

Adjournment (vote)

Mr. Delmolino moved to adjourn. The Board held a roll call vote. Ms. Calvin voted aye, Ms. Fennelly voted aye, Mr. Gates voted aye, Ms. Hampe voted aye, Mr. Quinlan voted aye, Ms. Radochia voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- April 13, 2021 Meeting Agenda
- March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Library Strategies, Proposal for Public Library System for the Town of Arlington, MA
- Russell Fund Summer 2021 Budget Request
- Article 20 Vote/Public Remote Participation, March 2021 Select Board
- Library Director's Report, March 2021 with Arlington Reads Together 2021 Report and March Circulation Report